

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02528 160544Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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R 160458Z AUG 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1698
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2528

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CH, JA
SUBJ: PRC PRESS REACTION TO PFT

1. PEOPLE'S DAILY GREETED THE SIGNING OF THE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH JAPAN WITH AN EDITORIAL AUGUST 13, IN WHICH OPPOSITION TO HEGEMONISM WAS PREDICTABLY GIVEN PROMINENCE. THE EDITORIAL ALSO NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE PEOPLE OF CHINA AND JAPAN AND OF ALL "PEACE-LOVING" COUNTRIES WERE HAPPY AT THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY, "ONLY SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM IS NOT HAPPY." WHILE THE EDITORIAL AVOIDED CHARGING MOSCOW OUTRIGHT WITH PRACTICING HEGEMONISM, IT CHARACTERIZED THE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD THE TREATY AS ONE OF "REDICULOUS HOSTILITY" AND STATED THAT MOSCOW "FLIES INTO A RAGE AT THE VERY WORD ANTI-HEGEMONY, FULLY REVEALING ITS SORDID FEATURES."

2. A COMMENTARY BY THE SAME PAPER THE FOLLOWING DAY ATTACKED THE SOVIET UNION MORE DIRECTLY, CITING TASS' ADVERSE REACTION
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TO THE PFT. IT ACCUSED THE SOVIETS OF HAVING OVER THE YEARS ATTEMPTED TO SABOTAGE THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS, AND GLOATED THAT THESE EFFORTS HAVE NOW COME TO NAUGHT. MOSCOW'S MOTIVATION, ACCORDING TO PD, WAS TO WEAKEN JAPANESE TIES WITH OTHER NATIONS AND TO "ISOLATE JAPAN, IN ORDER TO BRING JAPAN UNDER ITS OWN CONTROL." THE SIGNATURE OF THE TREATY, THEN, HAD DEALT A BLOW TO SOVIET EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE HEGEMONY

OVER ASIA.

3. COMMENT: IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED THAT PRC PUBLIC STATEMENTS
WOULD DO THEIR BEST TO IMPLY, IF NOT STATE OUTRIGHT, THAT
THE PFT'S ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE WAS DIRECTED AGAINST MOSCOW,
DESPITE THE JAPANESE EFFORT TO DIVORCE ANTI-HEGEMONISM
FROM ANTI-SOVIETISM. WOODCOCK

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NNN

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